

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

March 10, 1999      LR 11

CLERK:      Mr. President, LR 11CA, no Enrollment and Review Amendments.      Senator Kristensen would move to amend the resolution.      (See AM0125 on page 676 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD:      Senator Kristensen, you're recognized to open on your amendment.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN:      Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature.      I (laugh) yeah, I suppose I should apologize before I even start on this one today.      This is not as controversial, but this is important and this is the constitutional...this is the gender equity constitutional amendment that we debated some time ago.      I purposely held it off the agenda to give people the opportunity to look at this.      There were some questions raised and I wanted to make sure that everybody had at least a month or so to take a look at the language.      This amendment, and I'll...if you'll just spend a minute with me, the crucial addition to the constitution is the use of the masculine gender in this constitution shall be construed to include the feminine gender.      And then there's the second portion that talks about if this is adopted the Secretary of State's going to go back and reprint the constitution to implement that direction.      The amendment that I bring to you is one...and I don't see Senator Schimek right here.      I hope that she's in the building somewhere and would have the opportunity to come and address this.      In committee we had talked about not reinforcing the "he" means "she"; perhaps there's another way to word this that would be more appropriate.      The language that I have come up with shall be, the language in this constitution shall be construed to be gender neutral.      I would certainly invite anybody who'd have an observation about the change.      I think it's legitimate to say, should we do this or not; I would hope that we could do that debate on the advancement of the bill, but I'm very curious and I would suggest this is probably a more appropriate way to state what we were trying to do and I would urge the adoption of the amendment.      Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD:      Thank you, Senator Kristensen.      For discussion on the Kristensen amendment, Senator Tyson.

SENATOR TYSON:      Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body.